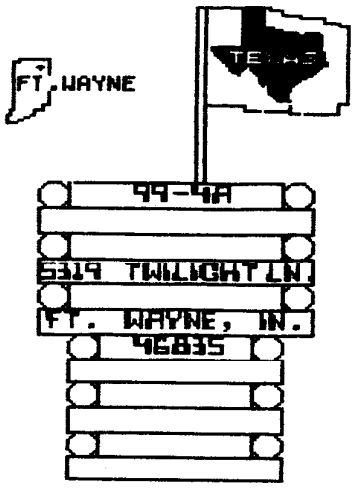


THE FORT'S USER GROUP

President	Secretary
D.Bradtmueller-483-0896	Denny Przybyla - 432-1228
Treasurer	Editor/Publisher
Tony Miller - 456-4765	Pat Murphy - 485-2623
Vice-president	Librarian
Tom Carson - 485-7086	Bryon Delabarre- 627-5905

December 1987

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS - BY DAVE BRADTMUELLER

I was pleased with the turn-out that we had at the last meeting. I must apologize to those that were there for my sudden departure. If any of you have to carry an electronic leash you know that when it calls you answer. SPAD XIII was demoed instead of Advanced Diagnostics. We will demo it at the next meeting. Those of us that went to the Faire thought that it was very well done this year. Hats off to the Chicago Group.

A reminder to all of you. Club dues are due no later than the meeting in January. Dues are just $15.00. Pay as early as you can. At this coming meeting we will need to select officers for the elections in January. If you can not attend and would like to nominate anyone, write down the name and send it to Pat Murphy at the clubs address.

Bryon Delabarre has anounced that he will be stepping down from the librarian position. This position is appointed by the president, so if anyone is interested in taking over, let me know.

The next meeting will be on December 12, at 9:30 am. The doors open at 9:00 so try to be there as early as possible.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

MINUTES

Meeting of November 09, 1987
Submitted by Dennis B. Przybyla, Secretary

President Dave Bradtmueller called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. There were eleven members in attendance, including one new member, Lowell Dusseau. We had no guests. The Secretary's minutes of the October meeting and the Treasurer's report for November were published in the November Newsletter. The formal presentation of these reports at the meeting were omitted but submitted as published. There were no additions or corrections to the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer and the reports were approved as published.

A motion to purchase the Editor Assembler cartridge for the club's computer system was approved. Tony Miller will make the purchase. The "Orphan Survival Handbook" has not been received yet. It was decided that we no longer pursue the purchase of this book.

Dave suggested that all members should feel free to give a demonstration on hardware and/or software at our meetings. Any ideas you have for demonstrations will also be appreciated. It was announced that Bryon Delabarre will no longer be the Librarian. School is keeping Bryon very busy. Dave will probably announce the appointment of a new Librarian at the December meeting. Charles Delabarre will be getting all the club's system and software manuals from Gary. As yet, we have not gotten both disk drives on our club's system to work together. Tony is working on this project.

Our discussion period was mostly devoted to the Chicago TI Faire. Those attending from our group were Dave Bradtmueller, Rich Baily, Dennis Przybyla, and Bud Darr and wife. Some of the items purchased at the Faire by our group was a Speech Synthesizer adapter card for the PE Box, an RS232 Y cable for $10, Print Wizard, and Certificate 99. Be aware of Ryte Data, as negative comments have surfaced. The "Grand Ram Card" may be vapor ware. The "TI Artist" program will be released in cartridge format. It was demonstrated at the Faire. The Horizon's Ram Disk card can now be in a one meg format through the use of 32K CMOS chips. The Boston Computer Society is selling an operating rom chip for the Horizon Ram Disk card. Within the next few months, the Micropendium magazine will be sent only by second class mail.

Our discussion period was followed with a demonstration by Robert Knox, Jr. on his newly purchased program SPAD XIII.

The door prize winner at this meeting was Charles Delabarre. He received two diskettes. With our newest member, Lowell Dusseau, our paid membership now stands at thirty active and one subscribing member.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 12, at the Shawnee Branch Library. The meeting start time will be at 9:30, with the doors opening at 9:00 am.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Membership/Treasury
by Anthony Miller

Well it's that time of year again to SIGN UP. The membership drive has started and the time has come to sign up for the next year. The dues for the year are $15.00. This entitles you to this newsletter, access to the library and helps with the upkeep of this users group. Following is an example of where your dues have gone for the 1987 year:

```
STAMPS FOR NEWSLETTER.............$110.45
SECOND DISK DRIVE.................$ 75.00
EDITOR/ASSEMBLER CARTRIDGE........$ 24.89
B/W TELEVISION....................$ 73.47
KEYS AND LOCKS COMPUTER BOX.......$ 15.48
-----------------------------------------
TOTAL.............................$299.29
```

One thing you will notice about the benefits that we have received from your dues is no (and I repeat no) money has been spent on the actual printing of the newsletter. This shows that Pat Murphy and Dave Bradtmueller have contributed a lot to this user group.

Now on to the treasury report for the month of October and November:

DEBITS

```
OLD BALANCE.......................$268.28
STAMPS............................$ 27.45
EDITOR/ASSEMBLER CARTRIDGE........$ 24.89
-----------------------------------------
BALANCE...........................$215.94
```

CREDITS

```
INTEREST.(10/30/87)...............$  1.26
MEMBERSHIP.(3 EACH)...............$ 45.00
-----------------------------------------
NEW BALANCE.......................$262.20
```

MEMBERSHIP/TREASURY NOTE:
I am sorry to say that I won't be running for this office next year. The burden of school and family has taken up so much of my time that I don't have the time left to fully dedicate to doing the best job I could perform. I hope this will give enough advance notice so that one of the members would consider filling my vacancy or nominate someone else.

TECH NOTE:
It seems that there was no takers for the problem I presented in the last newsletter about checking the VDP RAM chips. So therefore comes the mother of invention, do it yourself. This should update you on what I am doing. I decided to write an assembly language program that will reside in a super-cart or GRAM KRACKER memory space. So far I have a good start on the VDP RAM check but, I hope to take this a little further and also check the ROM'S, scratch pad RAM and all three GROM chips. (Nothing like taking on more than you can chew). One nice benefit that will come out of this, I hope to share with you some of the nice little tricks that I will encounter on the way for those of you that are interested.

Until next time, HAPPY COMPUTING.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

>>>EDITOR'S NOTES<<<
by P. Murphy

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This first item came from the LA99er's group. I believe it originally came from the Chicago TImes. Type it in and save it on disk. Saved as "LOAD", it will change screen color automatically when booting up your system. Nothing earth shaking, but it does what it says it will do. Here it is:

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 B=5 :: F=16 :: !B=BACKGROUND, F=FOREGROUND : INSERT YOUR CHOICE
120 C=16*(F-1)+(B-1)
130 CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD(9984,C,C,C,C,C,C,C,C,2,0,7,15+B,32,32)
140 CALL LOAD(9999,48,2,0,8,0,2,1,39,0,2,2,0,8,4,32,32,36,2,0,8,8,4)
150 CALL LOAD(10021,32,32,36,2,0,8,16,4,32,32,36,2,0,8,24,4,32,32,36,4,91)
160 CALL LOAD(-31804,39,8)
170 CALL LOAD(-31952,255,231,255,231)
180 END
```

Here is one from the **SUNCOAST BEEPER**. This one is another CALL LOAD . If you CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD(-31932,0) the "* READY *" will be removed your Extended Basic screen. If you try it in command mode it will come back after a program has been run, but give it a line number and RUN. It will be gone then until you turn off your computer. Interesting.

****

The next article comes from TIGERCUB Software in Columbus, Ohio. The TIGERCUB has just the best of things to sell you. This article is just one of the many interesting things from the TIGERCUB. If anyone is interested in the very useful items from them...contact TIGERCUB SOFTWARE, 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus, OH 43213. Now, here is the article...very good...thanx Jim Peterson!

BACK UP AND FLIP!

by Jim Peterson

Or rather, flip and back up. There is a good deal of controversy over whether disks should be flipped. It is claimed that the liner inside the disk jacket collects dust, and that running a disk backward will release this dust and foul the disk.

I can only say that I have a file of about 250 flipped disks, including utility disks which I run many times every day, and have never had a problem which I could blame on the flipping. And, I am using low-cost no-brand disks.

However, disks do occasionally go bad, whether flipped or not, whether cheap or expensive, whether "certified" or not, and the "certified" won't get you your data back. So it certainly pays to have a backup copy. And, if you put the backup on the flip side of another disk, it has cost you nothing at all. If there is 1 chance in 50 that a disk will go bad, there is 1 chance in 2500 that both will go bad!

Almost all of the bargain disks I have flipped have had 358 good sectors on the back side. Occasionally, one of them will have a bad sector, but this is no problem unless it is sector 0 or 1. However, I would not use one of those sector-copy programs to copy onto a disk which had bad sectors.

Don't waste your money on one of those disk-flipping kits. They consist of nothing but a template and a paper punch. You can make your own template from the cover of a disk that has gone bad, or from a piece of cardboard. The single-hole hand paper punch is sold in office supply stores for less than $1.50. Be sure to get the kind that has a plastic catcher on the lower jaw to catch the punchings. You don't need a square write-protect notch, a half-round one works just as well.

Several people have told me that their flipped disks wouldn't work, and it turned out that they had asked an Apple peddler how to flip them. To flip a disk for the TI, you must punch another reading hole on each side, as well as another write-protect notch. This is where the template comes in handy, although the placement of the holes is not all that critical. I use typist's "white-out" correction fluid to mark the spots to be punched, but I'm not sure I will recommend it - don't let dried chalk from the bottle top get into your disk!

In simple terms, if you hold a disk so that a notch is on the upper left edge and a small hole is to the left of the center hole - you must punch a notch in the same position on the upper right edge, and another small round hole in the same position on the right side of the center hole. Then you must turn the disk over and punch a corresponding small hole to the left of the center hole. The notch on the edge is easy, although some brands of disk have a cover with a very thick hard edge. Now for those center holes. You DO NOT punch them through the disk itself, just through the cover. Cut a piece of index card about an inch wide. Slip it into the center hole and under the place you want to punch. Now slip the lower jaw of the punch into the center hole, with the card protecting the disk surface, and punch your hole. Do the same on the other side.

The only trouble you might have is that the inner lining of the disk cover may not punch out cleanly, probably because your punch is not uniformly sharp. The instruction sheet with one of the disk punching kits recommends that you "nibble" at the hole with the punch. DON'T! You might get thin shavings of the disk cover inside the cover. It is better to leave the card in place, lift up the bit of liner with the tip of a knife and slice it off. A bit of fuzz around the edges is nothing to worry about.

It is probably a good idea to flip your disks before you use them, even before you initialize them, but I have yet to damage a disk with this procedure.

I should mention that I am running single-sided single-density disks in a TI drive. I have no idea what trouble flipping might cause in your souped-up systems. Can someone tell us?

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

********** PROGRAM REVIEW **********
by PATRICK MURPHY

CERTIFICATE 99

Another fine program from the creators of JOY PAINT and BANNER 99. This program is available from GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE. It is 100% assembly language. It gives eveything needed to produce great certificates, diplomas, licenses, signs, awards and ad's.

The package includes twenty-four graphics, six fonts in two sizes and twelve diferent borders. This program loads from EDITOR/ASSEMBLER, EXTENDED BASIC, MINI-MEMORY or TI-WRITER.

First the FONT is selected (auto centered if you want it!). Then the BORDER is selected (or no border if desired). A sample corner of each border will be dislpayed by tapping the space bar, <enter> will select the chosen border. The next screen will be the GRAPHIC, each is indexed on the screen same as the border, by pressing the space bar. The GRAPHIC may be magnified to your desire.

Finally, a SIGNATURE (or none) is chosen. These include Ronald Reagan, Lee Iacocca, and Santa Claus! It may be placed on the lower left or the right, or the signature may be left blank for your own handwritten signature! Then the TEXT screen appears, which displays what areas on the certificate are available for text (very good!).

Graphics may be modified or added to with a graphics program such as JOY PAINt 99. Graphics may be loaded and modified to suit the user's taste! A very nice program! I have included an example at the end of this newsletter...quite nice!!!

The program comes on a FLIPPY (see article in this newsletter from Jim Peterson on FLIPPY disks). Get it from GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE, 804 E. Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48843. Like other programs for our computer, it is slow printing!

##########

Speaking of Jim Peterson, he writes to tell us that the special characters listed in our last newsletter, available with a Gemini/Star printer **CAN** be used in TI-Writer! "In plain English, you can access these codes by CTRL U, FCTN R, CTRL U, SHIFT), then type the character with an ASCII 128 LESS than the character you want. In other words, if you want CHR$(160), hit the space bar (ASCII 32), etc. To get back to the normal character mode, use CTRL U, FCTN R, CTRL U, SHIFT 8." Jim Peterson says he received this info from David Aragon, (San Antonio Area 99ers newsletter, Aug. 1985), who showed how to do this by transliteration. Jim heads up TIGERCUB Software, which has many fine programs available at a very reasonable price! Contact him at 156 Collingswood Ave., Columbus, OH 43213.

########## PROGRAM REVIEW ##########
by David Bradtmueller

OLD DARK CAVES

About 2 months ago I bought a game called **Old Dark Caves.** It was advertised as a graphic adventure game. In this game you explore a series of caves and try to collect keys and six pieces of the sorcerers amulet. After you have collected all six pieces of the amulet you are transported to a new set of caves called the lower caves. In the lower caves you try to free a friendly dragon. This game requires extended basic, 32k of memory and a disk drive.

The instructions that come with the game are very complete and provide helpful hints. The game is as it claims. It is entertaining and a good way to spend an evening. My only complaint so far is there is no way to tell if you have been in a cave before. Also, this game requires more skill than just going into a cave and trying to kill a monster.

I would recommend this game to anyone who would like a change of pace from the Tunnels of Doom Cartridge. It will keep you challenged.

########## PROGRAM REVIEW ##########
by David Bradtmueller

PRINT WIZARD

At the Chicago Faire, Trio Software was selling a diskette called Print Wizard. They said it was just like Print Shop (Print Shop is a piece of software for the IBM PC that will print out cards, banners, letterheads, and signs). Having used Print Shop at work I bought Print Wizard.

Upon arriving back home, I put Print Wizard in my TI and booted it up. It came up exactly as the instructions said but with two small problems. I was only able to use one screen of pictures. The program allowed for more screens but once on the other screens it would not alow you to select any. Also when I tried to print out anything on my printer all I got was garbage. I was very disapointed and ready to write off my $25.00.

About ten days after the faire I received a package from Trio Software. In the package was 2 diskettes and 2 sheets of paper. One sheet was an apology from Trio Software for the bug in there picture screens and for the inability of the program to work with Epson MX compatable printers (also Gemini). The diskettes contained a new version of Print Wizard that would fix all problems.

I have to tip my hat to Trio. They could have said that the program was originally sold as being Epson FX compatable and it would cost more for the MX fix, but instead they sent out the fix free. It always is pleasent to see a company that wants to please its customers.

The instructions are very good, all-though I have not tried to convert any TI-ARTIST files to use with this program. The program is a lot slower than Print Shop but that is to be expected with the difference in machine sizes. Since recieving version 2.1 everything is working great. The only complaint that I have is that I can't put my name on the back of the card.

I highly recommend this piece of software to anyone. This is a great piece of software and another example of how our machine is as good as any on the market today.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

##

LIBRARY NEWS

by Bryon DeLaBarre

Hello again. This month I want to talk about the library in general (rather than merely new editions to it). I have been working on the new, updated library guide, and I have noticed some programs that I either just plain forgot about or didn't realize were as good as they really are. I hope to be done with the guide in another month (with a little luck). By organizing the library files, I have found some of those programs that I always intended to get a hold of, but just didn't. Along with all the programs in the previous guide, I think there are many more worth having. So I urge you to check out the new guide (when completed), and find all those programs that you never got a hold of. If anyone is able to or is interested in helping, I could still use a hand with the library. Thank you, and I'll see you at the next meeting.

##

W.I.S.H. LIST

WISH GAC0686...A terminal emulator program that would transfer a complete disk rather than one file at a time.

WISH TM0686...Would like a ribbon cable connector (female) for a 36 pin .100" card edge connector.

WISH GAC0786...A program that would download different fonts to a dot matrix printer i.e., script, gothic, roman, etc.

WISH JY0886...A program that converts CALL LOAD statements into assembly language source code.

WISH BCD0986..Would like a used expanded system (RS232 Optional), at least one disk drive and 32K memory expansion.

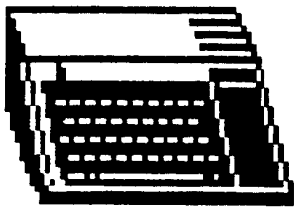
WISH GCC1286..Would like a casette cable and educational programs or modules (primary level).

ANSWER GAC0686...Use FREEWARE program "MASS TRANSFER" available from Stuart Olson, 25322 W. Wayside Place, Lake Villa, IL 60046. Program now in user group library.

ANSWER TM0686...Connectors you want are available from PILGRIM'S PRIDE, 5 Williams Lane, Hatboro, PA 19040

ANSWER JY0886...The program to convert CALL LOAD to ASM. LANGUAGE source or object code has been written by Tom Freeman of LA99ers and is in our library.

ANSWER GAC0886...Program called OLDENG prints any TI-WRITER file in old english letters - also Character Sets and Graphics Design III provides 6 full character sets - can be purchased from TEXAMENTS.



ATTENTION USER GROUP!

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FORT'S USER GROUP IS THE BEST T. I. USER GROUP IN THE FORT WAYNE AREA! I HEARBY NAME DEC. 20 "T. I. USER GROUP DAY"!

Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan